(b) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007; and

(c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the hon. Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, wants to say something.....*(Interruptions)*... आप अपनी सीट पर बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Devastation caused by recent cyclone in Bangladesh

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a short statement. Of course, I have sent a notice. It is in connection with the devastating cyclone which has taken place in our neighbouring country Bangladesh. I requested the Leader of the Opposition also and he has readily agreed that I could make this statement.

Sir, I rise to inform the House about the recent cyclone and devastation which has been caused in neighbouring Bangladesh. As hon. Members would be aware, a severe cyclone hit Bangladesh, especially its coastal districts, on 15th November causing in its wake death and devastation. More than 2,300 persons are reported dead, as of now, and several thousands rendered homeless. An estimated 2.7 million people have also been affected; thousands of livestock are killed and standing crops and infrastructure are severely damaged.

Rashtrapatiji and the hon. Prime Minister have written to their counterparts in Bangladesh expressing our distress at this tragedy and conveying our deep condolences and our readiness to assist them in the relief efforts. Yesterday, I had spoken to Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdury, Foreign Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, and mentioned to him our readiness to send relief supplies to supplement the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh struggles to come to terms with this devastation, in keeping with our close ties and our empathy with the friendly people of Bangladesh in this hour of need, the Government of India has decided to respond immediately with a comprehensive relief package. Our offer will consist of relief materials required urgently by those affected. This package will consist of medicines, food items, milk powder, tents and blankets, first-aid kits and other relief items.

The hon. Members will recollect that India has always responded readily to such requests from Bangladesh earlier, the most recent one being a few months ago when considerable devastation was caused by mudslides during the monsoons. We are already in the process of supplying essential food items to Bangladesh. We will continue to extend whatever assistance we can this time as well. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (West Bengal): Sir, our heart goes out to the people of Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... But why their heart is quiet ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Trivedi, Please Sit down, ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Trivedi the Leader of the Opposition would like to speak on this.

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†Not recorded.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): जनाब नायब सदर साहब, मुझे बहुत थोड़े में अपनी बात अर्ज करनी है। जब माननीय प्रणब बाबू ने यह जिक्र किया कि हम हाउस में इस तरीके का शोक प्रस्ताव रखना चाहेंगे, तो हमें इसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। पिछले दिनों बांग्लादेश में जो हुआ है, उनकी तकलीफ में हम सहानुभूति प्रकट करें, यह उचित ही है और इसीलिए हमें उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। इस वातावरण में, बांग्लादेश के विषय में या वहाँ जो दिक्कत हुई है, उसमें जिस आसानी से हम ने अपनी बात या सरकार की बात या हम सब की बात बना कर के कही, यह अपने आप में सही है। माननीय प्रणब बाबू से मेरा निवेदन होगा कि हाउस के जो अन्य मसले हैं, उन पर भी ऐसा विचार हो जाए, तो अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): सर, नन्दीग्राम पर ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, on Nandigram ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR.DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fourteen minutes past twelve of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 20th November, 2007.

GMGIPMRND—2506RS(S5)—06-09-2008.